

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

-- [0023] Figure 16 is an isolated, perspective view of a sliding bracket for sliding slidingly engaging the one of a pair of rails; and--

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

-- [0025] Referring to Figure 1, a roof rack assembly, generally shown at 10, is adapted to be mounted along a roof 12 of a motor vehicle 14. The roof 12 extends longitudinally between a front windshield 16 and a back or aft end 18 of the motor vehicle 14. The roof 12 also extends laterally between a pair of opposing sides 20, 22 of the motor vehicle 14. A tail light 24 is disposed along the aft end 18 of the motor vehicle 14 adjacent each of the sides 20, 22.--

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following amended paragraph:

-- [0041] In operation, starting with the tray 44 in the storage position above the roof 12, as shown in Figure 4, the individual first pulls on the grab bar 93. As a result, the sliding bracket 56 slides along the channel 36 towards the aft end 30 32 of the rails 26, 28. The movement of the sliding bracket 56 causes the tray 44 to slide rearwardly along the roof 12. At the same time, the pair of pivot arms 68, 70 pivots relative to the pair of mounting brackets 80 and continuously supports the tray 44 during travel. The sliding bracket 56 slides along the length of the channel 36 until it reaches a final position at the aft end 30 of one of the pair of rails 26, 28. When the sliding bracket 56 reaches the end of the channel 36, the pair of pivot arms 68, 70 abuts against the stop 92. As a result, pivotal movement of the pair of pivot arms 68, 70 ends and the tray 44 is presented in its loading position, as shown in Figure 5, inclined to the horizontal at about 45°.--

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following amended paragraph:

-- [0043] The drive assembly 96 is housed within an interior portion 104 of a mounting panel 106. The interior portion 104 also houses electrical wiring 108 that extends from inside the motor vehicle 14' to power the drive assembly 96. The mounting panel 106 is fixedly attached to the roof 12' and extends between the pair of rails 26', 28'. Although the drive

assembly 96 is shown as being housed within the mounting panel 106, it is contemplated that the drive assembly 96 may be located at various positions outside of the mounting panel ~~104~~ 106.--

Please replace paragraph [0044] with the following amended paragraph:

-- [0044] Still referring to Figures Figure 7, the mounting panel 106 extends between a pair of front stanchions 110 (one shown). One of the front stanchions 110 includes a drive gear 112 that is engaged by the gear 102 of the drive assembly 96. A pair of rear stanchions 114 is fixedly mounted to the roof 12' adjacent to the back end 18' of the motor vehicle 14'. Each of the pair of rear stanchions 114 is aligned longitudinally with one of the pair of front stanchions 110.--

Please replace paragraph [0051] with the following amended paragraph:

-- [0051] In operation, the movement of the tray 44' from the storage position to the loading position is initiated by a power switch (not shown) inside the motor vehicle 14' or by a remote control (not shown). The motor 98 is thereby activated, which, in turn, causes the lead screw 116 to rotate. The rotation of the lead screw 116 drives the sliding bracket 56' to move towards the aft end 32' of one of the pair of rails 26', 28'. As the sliding bracket 56' moves towards the aft end 32', the tray 44' pivots about the pivot pin ~~132~~ 126. At the same time, the pair of pivot arms 68', 70' pivots about the pair of mounting brackets 80' along the back end 18' of the motor vehicle 14'. The pair of pivot arms 68', 70' bears the load of the pivoting tray 44'. When the sliding bracket 56' reaches the aft end 32' of the one of the pair of rails 26', 28', the tray 44' is in its loading position.--

Please replace paragraph [0057] with the following amended paragraph:

-- [0057] Referring to Figures 12 and 13, a cover assembly, generally indicated at 144, extends along the back end 18'' of the motor vehicle 14''. The cover assembly 144 includes outer 146 and inner 148 panel members, as shown in Figure ~~12~~ 13. The outer 146 and inner 148 panel members are fixedly secured to the roof 12'' and to the back end 18'' of the motor vehicle 14''. The outer panel member 146 defines a pocket 150 for receiving one of the pair of pivot arms 68'', 70'' therein when the tray 44'' is in its storage position. The cover assembly 144 conceals one of the pair of pivot arms 68'', 70'' to improve the overall appearance of the motor vehicle 14''.--

Please replace paragraph [0058] with the following amended paragraph:

-- [0058] It is appreciated that although the cover assembly 144 has been shown and described in relation to the second third embodiment of the invention, the cover assembly 144 is equally applicable to all of the other embodiments disclosed herein.--

Please replace paragraph [0059] with the following amended paragraph:

-- [0059] Referring to Figures 14 through 16, wherein like triple primed reference numerals represent similar elements as those described above, in a third fourth embodiment of the invention the drive mechanism is a belt 116''' extending between a pair of pulleys 152, 154. The pulleys 152, 154 are disposed along the channel 36'''. One of the pair of pulleys 152 is positioned at the fore end 30''' of one of the pair of rails 26''', 28'''. The other of the pair of pulleys 154 is positioned at the aft end 32''' of one of the pair of rails 26''', 28''', as is shown in Figure 15 14. The pair of rails 26''', 28''' is shaped to accommodate the belt 116''' and the sliding bracket 56''' secured thereto.--

Please replace paragraph [0061] with the following amended paragraph:

-- [0061] Referring to Figure 17, wherein like quadruple primed reference numerals represent similar elements as those described above, in a fourth fifth embodiment of the invention a tray extension, generally indicated at 156, slidably engages the tray 44'''''. The tray extension 156 includes extension sides 158, 160 and an extension end 162 extending between the extension sides 158, 160.--

Please replace paragraph [0062] with the following amended paragraph:

-- [0062] The extension sides 158, 160 slidably engage opposing sides 164, 166, each of which have a predetermined length, to move the tray extension 156 between a retracted position, indicated at A, and an extended position, indicated at B. When the extension 156 is in the retracted position, the extension end 162 is disposed adjacent the second end 46''' 48''' of the tray 44'''''. When the extension 156 is in the extended position, the extension end 162 is spaced apart from the second end 46''' 48''' of the tray 44'''''. As a result, the capacity of the roof rack assembly 10''' 10''' is increased. As an added benefit, when the extension 156 is in the

Appl'n No: 10/702,178  
Amdt dated June 21, 2006  
Reply to Office action of March 23, 2006

extended position, an individual storing an item on the tray 44"" must only raise the item to the extension end 162, which is at a lower elevation than the second end 46"" 48"" of the tray 44"".--